

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~A print server which is connected through a~~  
network to an external apparatus for outputting image  
data mixedly including BW (black-and-white) and color  
data, a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW  
5 image data, and a color image formation apparatus for  
outputting color image data, said print server  
comprising:

determination means for determining one of said BW  
10 image formation apparatus and said color image  
formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a  
sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a  
base;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly  
15 including the BW and color data output from said  
external apparatus for each page and judging whether  
the page is a color page or a BW page;

transmission means for previously transmitting the  
discriminated color page to said color image formation  
20 apparatus to output the color page in a case where the  
base determined by said determination means is said BW  
image formation apparatus, and previously transmitting  
the discriminated BW page to said BW image formation  
apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the  
25 base determined by said determination means is said  
color image formation apparatus; and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW

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~~page and the color page, set through the inserter and~~  
previously output, in the base determined by said  
determination means, and simultaneously instructing to  
output the other of the BW page and the color page.

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2. A print server according to Claim 1, wherein  
another judgment means for judging whether or not a  
storage device for spooling the BW page is installed in  
said BW image formation apparatus or judging whether or  
not a storage device for spooling the color page is  
installed in said color image formation apparatus, is  
provided.

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3. A print server according to Claim 2, wherein  
the BW page is transmitted to said BW image formation  
apparatus in a case where the storage device is  
installed in said BW image formation apparatus or the  
color page is transmitted to said color image formation  
apparatus in a case where the storage device is  
installed in said color image formation apparatus.

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4. A print server according to Claim 2, wherein  
display instruction means for displaying the page on a  
display screen of said BW image formation apparatus and  
a display screen of said external apparatus on the  
basis of an installation state of said BW image  
formation apparatus or displaying the page on a display

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screen of said color image formation apparatus and the display screen of said external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of said color image formation apparatus, is provided.

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5. A print server according to Claim 4, wherein the installation state means an installation state of the storage device.

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6. An image formation system comprising:

an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW and color data;

a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data;

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a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data; and

a print server connected through a network to said external apparatus, said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, and

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comprising,

determination means for determining one of said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base,

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judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from

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said external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page,

transmission means for previously transmitting the discriminated color page to said color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base determined by said determination means is said BW image formation apparatus, and previously transmitting the discriminated BW page to said BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the base determined by said determination means is said color image formation apparatus, and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW page and the color page, set through the inserter and previously output, in the base determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

7. An image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data different from the first-kind image data to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said system comprising:

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~~control means for controlling to transmit the~~  
first-kind image data to said first image formation  
apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to  
said second image formation apparatus from the series  
5 of image data,

wherein said control means makes transmission  
timing of the first-kind image data to said first image  
formation apparatus differ from transmission timing of  
the second-kind image data to said second image  
10 formation apparatus in accordance with a function of  
said first image formation apparatus or a function of  
said second image formation apparatus.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the  
15 function includes a first function to perform spooling  
processing.

9. A system according to Claim 7, wherein said  
control means makes the transmission timing of the  
20 first-kind image data to said first image formation  
apparatus differ from the transmission timing of the  
second-kind image data to said second image formation  
apparatus in accordance with the fact that which of  
said first image formation apparatus and said second  
25 image formation apparatus has a second function to  
perform processing for feeding a previously image  
formed sheet, to which image formation processing has

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not to be performed.

10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the first-kind image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the second-kind image data to said second image formation apparatus in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the second function.

11. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus can input image data from a remote image processing apparatus, said control means includes display control means for selectively displaying message information to an operator on the image processing apparatus, said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus, and said control means determines that the information has to be displayed on which of the image processing apparatus, said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus in accordance with the function of said first image formation apparatus or the function of said second image formation apparatus.

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein said controls means varies contents of the information in

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~~accordance with the function of said first image~~  
formation apparatus or the function of said second  
image formation apparatus.

5           13. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the  
first-kind image data represents a BW image and the  
second-kind image data represents a color image.

10           14. A system according to Claim 8, wherein the  
first-kind image data represents a photograph image and  
the second-kind image data represents a character  
image.

15           15. A control method of an image formation system  
which has an information processing apparatus capable  
of selectively transmitting a series of image data  
composed of plural pages containing first-kind image  
data and second-kind image data different from the  
first-kind image data to a first image formation  
20           apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the  
page unit, said method comprising:

25           a control step of controlling to transmit the  
first-kind image data to the first image formation  
apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to  
the second image formation apparatus from the series of  
image data,

wherein ~~transmission~~ timing of the first-kind

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image data to the first image formation apparatus is  
made differ from transmission timing of the second-kind  
image data to the second image formation apparatus in  
said control step in accordance with a function of the  
5 first image formation apparatus or a function of the  
second image formation apparatus.

16. A storage medium which stores a computer-  
readable program to cause an image formation system to  
10 execute the following steps, the image formation system  
having an information processing apparatus capable of  
selectively transmitting a series of image data  
composed of plural pages containing first-kind image  
data and second-kind image data different from the  
15 first-kind image data to a first image formation  
apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the  
page unit, said program comprising:

a control step of controlling to transmit the  
first-kind image data to the first image formation  
20 apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to  
the second image formation apparatus from the series of  
image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind  
image data to the first image formation apparatus is  
25 made to differ from transmission timing of the second-  
kind image data to the second image formation apparatus  
in the control step in accordance with a function of

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the first image formation apparatus or a function of

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processing.

19. A system according to Claim 17, wherein said control means makes the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus

differ from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a second function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

20. A system according to Claim 19, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the second function.

21. A control method of an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

a control step of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages, wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made differ from

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